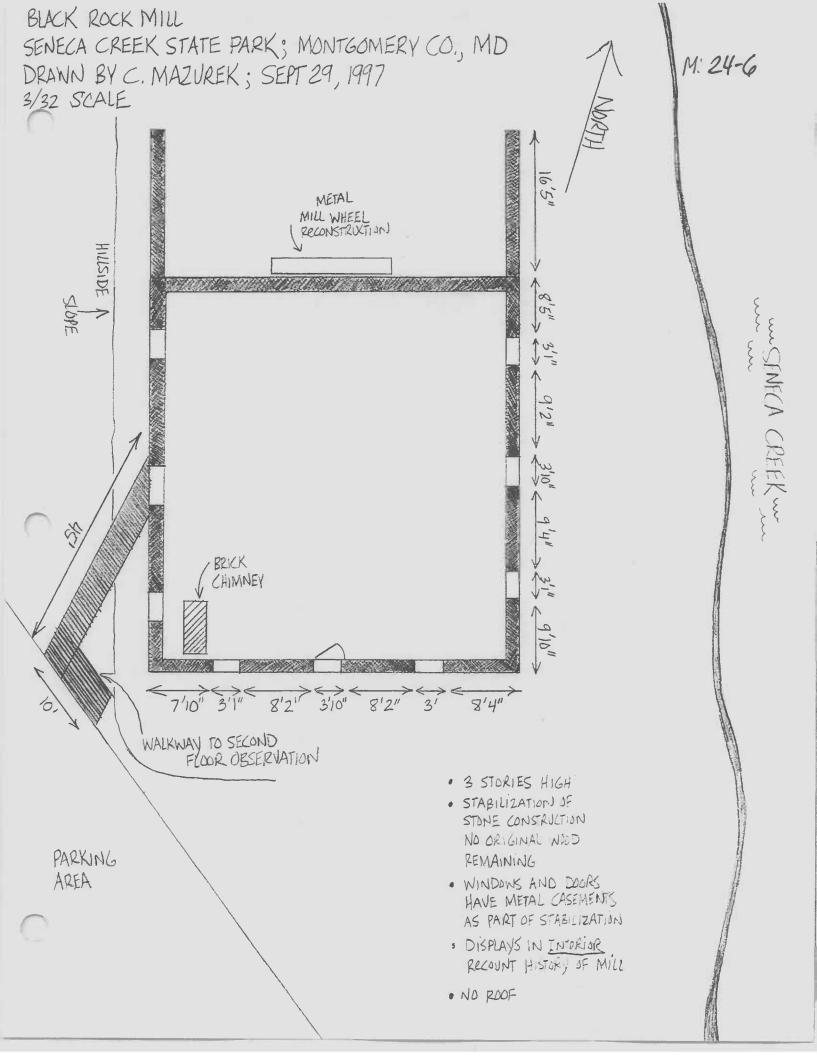
Addendum

M 24-6
Black Rock Mill
Montgomery Co., MD
C. Mazurek
October 1997
Section 7.1

Black Rock Mill which is located in Seneca Creek State Park on Black Rock Road at its intersection with Great Seneca Creek underwent a stabilization effort that took place between 1979-1980. The entire mill was a ruin with all the wood elements destroyed and only the rubble fieldstone structure remaining. This stabilization attempted to prevent the total destruction of the building by installing metal casements around the doors and windows, as well as, providing wooden structural support to the upper levels of the stone walls near the roofline. In addition to the amendments to the structure, interpretive elements were also added such as display boards relating mill history, and representations of mill machinery. There is also a handicapped accessible walkway that leads to a second floor overlook of the displays. The choice to stabilize rather than restore the structure was the best course of action since it is susceptible to flooding.





24-6 BLACK ROCK MILL montgomery Co., MD C. MAZUREK 10/97 MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES NORTH ELEVATION DF5



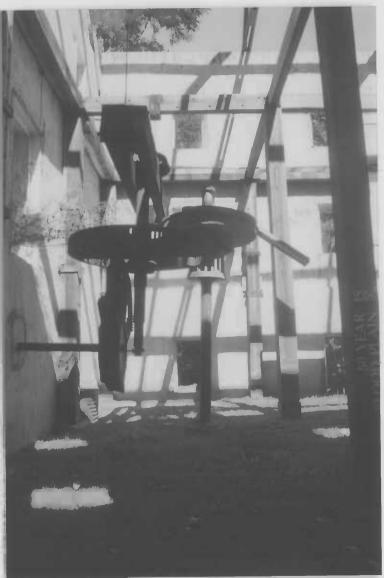
24-6 BLACK ROCK MILL montgomery Co., MO C. MAZUREK 10/97 MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES EAST ELEVATION 2045



24-6 BLACK POCK MILL Mantgamery Co., MD C. MAZUREK 10/97 MD DEAT. OF NANRAL RESOURCES WEST ELEVATION 3 OF 5



24-6 BLACK ROCK MILL montgomery Co., MD C. MAZUREK 10/97 MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES WEST ELEVADIN 4 OF5



24-6 BLACK ROCK MILL Montgomery Co., MD C. MAZUREK 10/97 MD DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES VIEW OF MACHINERY Display inside Mill SUF5

1.	Name Black Rock Mill		
	Planning Area/Site Number 24/6	3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference	Map 13
4.	Address Black Rock Road, Seneca Creek		H - 5
5.	Classification Summary		•
	Category building Ownership public Public Acquisition N.A. Status unoccupied Accessible no Present use other - vacant Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC Historic Sites In	FederalStateCounty X	Local
6.	Date 1815-1816	•	
		7. Original Owner Thomas H	illeary
υ.	Apparent Condition		
		c. original site	•
	b. unaltered		
r p s b	Description: This handsome three bay be a set into a hill beside Great Seneca & subblestone with sandstone corner quoins orches, doors, and windows have been reheets. The mill probably had a hip roouilding has been capped to prevent furthederway to restore the mill.	the mill is in disrepair. moved and/or covered by plyof, but this, too, is missing	rsed All Wood g. The
	Significance: Black Rock Mill is a uni- Montgomery County harnassing the water- and corn into flour. It is one of only potentially restorable condition. Black Rock Mill was constructed du Hilleary died in 1844 and the mill suffe for some 20 years before being sold to 1 At the time of its sale it was advertise in the County". Offutt ran the mill un- milling business steadly declined as the 20th century.	two mills still standing in two mills still standing in ring 1815-1816 by Thomas Hill ered neglect and incompetent wicholas Offutt in 1866 for ed as "one of the best count till big doots in the 1800 in the less to the standard of the stan	l wheat leary. managemen \$2,950. ry mills

Date researched and researcher Fall 1978 Mark Walston 12. CompilerGail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled 12/78

14. Designation

Approval_____ 15. Acreage - part of state land

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 24/6
MAGI#
See revised form

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME					
HISTORIC					
Black Rock Mi	11				
AND/OR COMMON					
LOCATION	*				
STREET & NUMBER	_	,			
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STATE			cour	NTY	
Marvland	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		Mor	ntgomery	
CLASSIFICAT	ION				
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS		PRESE	NT USE
	PUBLIC	OCCUPIED	_	_AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)I	PRIVATE	X_UNOCCUPIED	_	_COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS		_EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	_	_ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	_	_GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	-	_INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATIO
		_ X 40	_	_MILITARY	XOTHER: VACA
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CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

XDETERIORATED

__UNEXPOSED

XUNALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE

__GOOD

__RUINS

__ALTERED

__MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three bay by three bay, two story stone mill is set into the side of a hill beside Great Seneca Creek.

Constructed of uncoursed rubblestone with sandstone corner quoins, this mill is in disrepair. All porches, doors, and windows are either missing and/or covered with plywood sheets. The mill probably had a hip roof, but this, too, is missing. The building has been capped to prevent further deterioration and plans are underway to restore the mill.

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	HECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
—PREHISTORIC —1400-1499 —1500-1599 —1600-1699 —1700-1799 —X1800-1899 —1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORICARCHEOLOGY-HISTORICAGRICULTUREARCHITECTUREARTCOMMERCECOMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE LMILITARY MUSIC LPHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1815-1816

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Black Rock Mill, situated on Seneca Creek, is one of only two mills standing in Montgomery County today in a potentially restorable condition. The mill was constructed during the years 1815-1816 by Thomas Hilleary, on a tract originally known as "Black Rock" but resurveyed in 1789 as "Sprained Ankle". The date of construction is deduced from the inscription upon the date stone in the east gable of the mill, which reads "Black Rock Mill T.H. 1815", and an advertisement appearing in the Frederick Town Herald for June 1, 1816, which identifies certain lands for sale by Thomas Gassaway as "...within one mile of Mr. Thomas Hillery's mill now erecting on Seneca,"

Thomas Hilleary died sometime during the 1840's, and, in the division of his real estate, the grist and saw mill and a surrounding 30 acres of "Sprained Ankle" was designated as Lot No. 1. The interest in this parcel was divided between the son of Thomas Hilleary, John H. Hilleary, and the daughter, Sarah T. Waters, wife of Franklin Waters, However, John H. Hilleary, being in "Embarassed circumstances", conveyed his moiety in deed of trust to Richard J. Bowie on May 4, 1859, [1] Bowie promptly offered up at public sale, on June 23, 1859;

...the undivided interest of John H. Hilleary, being one moiety of and in part of a tract called the Sprained Ankle, containing thirty acres, being Lot. No. 1 in the division of the real estate of the late Thomas Hilleary, containing a grist and saw mill (known as Black Rock Mill) and dwellings appurtenant thereto. [2]

Nicholas D. Offutt purchased the interest in the property at a cost of \$1,300. Offutt then filed a bill of complaint with the circuit court of Montgomery County in an attempt to procure the remaining interest in the mill. Apparently, Sarah T. Waters to whom the other moiety descended, died before the age of 21, thus making any execution of a deed to legal title null and void. In addition, Franklin Waters, her husband, had been declared "a lunatic and incapable of managing his estate." [3] The property in the meantime was in

a dilapidated condition in so much that the rent of CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

the same is insufficient to keep up the repairs which are necessary to run the mills, , the said property is wholly unproductive and has been for several years, and cannot be made productive except by a very large outlay of money.

The creditors of John H, Hilleary joined in with Nicholas Offutt and finally forced through a court ordered sale of the property. The trustee's sale was held on October 13, 1866, and the handbill described the mill thus:

> This mill is considered one of the best country mills in the county. The structure is built of stone, [a] fine sized building, has three sets of burrs, with saw mill attached; in good order for grinding grains of all kinds and sawing lumber. The water power is sufficient for all purposes, being abundent in all seasons and is unsurpassed by any water power on Seneca. The mill has a good country custom, and is susceptible of being made a first class merchant mill, is attached to the mill a three story stone dwelling with necessary outbuildings, ... Any person desiring to engage in the milling business could scarcely find a more desirable opportunity, [5]

Charles Mansfield is listed as having charge of the mill at that time, Nicholas Offutt was high bidder at the sale, at a price of \$2,950, and thus owned full interest in the milling operation. Nicholas D. Offutt ran the mill up until his death in the 1890's. The milling business steadily declined as the mill changed hands throughout the twentieth century.

NOTES

- 1. Deed JGH 7/384, Montgomery County Land Records
 2. Judgement JGH 3/320, Montgomery County Equity Records
 3. Judgement EBP 1/49, Montgomery County Equity Records
- 4, ibid., loc, cit. 5. Ibid., Icc. cit.

SOURCES

Montgomery County Land Records Montgomery County Equity Records Frederick Town Herald, June 1, 1816 Vosbeck et al., Black Rock Mill Restoration Feasibilty Study...

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VERBAL B	OUNDARY D	ESCRIPTION	<u> </u>			uş.			Marin Marin
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LIST	ALL STATES	AND COUN	TIES FOR P	ROPERTIE	S OVERLA	PPING STA	ATE OR COUI	NTY BOUN	IDARIES
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STATE		The second secon		-	COUNTY				
FORM I	PREPAR	ED BY							
						Comoler	Reed - Arch		
NAME / TITLE	Mark We					Canay	need - Arch	recnita i	Jeschinnon

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

926-4510

Maryland

STATE

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

Box 87. Stronghold

Dickerson

CITY OR TOWN

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

LOCATION STREET & NUMBER Black Rock CITY, TOWN Seneca Cree				-
Black Rock	Road			
CITY, ŤOWN	Road			
			000005000000	
	k State Park	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	ncı
STATE			COUNTY	
Maryland		M	ontgomery	
CLASSIFIC	ATION			
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	X_PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)	PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	X_PARK
STRUCTURE SITE	BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDI
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	ACCESSIBLE _YES: RESTRICTED	ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT	RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	TRANSPORTATI
		$\frac{X}{N0}$	MILITARY	OTHER:
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Maryland De street & NUMBER Taylor Aven	partment of Natura ue	1 Resources To	erebuone #:	
Maryland De street & NUMBER Taylor Aven		1 Resources Te	erebuone #:	ip code
Maryland De STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven CITY.TOWN Annapolis LOCATION	ue	VICINITY OF IPTION L	state, z Maryland	ip code
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Maryland De STREET & NUMBER Taylor Aven CITY.TOWN Annapolis LOCATION	ue I OF LEGAL DESCR	VICINITY OF IPTION L F	state, z Maryland	ip code d 21401
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CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

XDETERIORATED

__UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

__GOOD

__RUINS

__MOVED DATE____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Black Rock Mill, located on the north side of Great Seneca Creek and directly accessible from Black Rock Road, is a three-story structure built of rubble fieldstone walls. An overshot wheel was once located at the building's west end, and the mill race extended along the south facade. A date stone located above the central third story window on the east gable end is carved with the inscription: "Black Rock Mill T.H. 1815". (The initials are those of Thomas Hilleary, the original owner of the mill.)

The north facade which overlooks the Great Seneca Creek is three bays wide, consisting of three sets of equal-sized windows at basement level and two stories above. The east gable end is also three bays wide, with three openings on each of the three story levels. The three central openings are proportioned like doors, longer than the windows which are positioned on either side. The south facade facing the mill race is three bays wide with central door openings on each level flanked by equal sized windows.

The corners of the building are distinguished by quoining which is executed in contrasting Seneca red sandstone. All windows have stone sills and plain, pegged wooden surrounds elaborated only by a thin outer molding.

Within the last five years, the building has lost its wooden gable roof and an attempt has subsequently been made to stabilize the exterior walls. Water is collecting in the basement and is causing accelerated deterioration of the building's condition.

PREHISTORIC _	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1500-1599 1600-1699	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE	CONSERVATIONECONOMICSEDUCATION	LAWLITERATUREMILITARY	SCIENCESCULPTURESOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_23800-1899	ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	<pre>engineeringexploration/settlement &industryinvention</pre>	MUSICPHILOSOPHYPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	THEATERTRANSPORTATIONOTHER (SPECIFY)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Black Rock Mill, constructed of rubble stone and quoined in Seneca sandstone, has stood along the banks of Great Seneca Creek as a landmark since its construction in 1815-16. Thomas Hilleary, of Frederick County, is listed in the Montgomery County tax assessment as the owner of "Black Rock" (a tract of land totaling 355 acres), but this tax assessment listing in 1816 makes no mention of a mill located on this property. I

The date stone which was located in the east gable of the mill until the dismantling of the roof is inscribed as follows: "Black Rock Mill T.H. 1815". T.H. is Thomas Hilleary, and it is probable that the tax assessment predates 1815 but the data was not recorded until 1816. Historian Michael Dwyer speculates that taxation would not begin until the mill "commenced operation". The Frederick Town Herald of June 1, 1816, cites "Mr. Thomas Hilleary's mill now erecting on Seneca."2

The Frederick Post of October 13, 1866, described Black Rock Mill as possessing unparalleled capacity for milling lumber and producing grain via "unsurpassed water capacity." 33

The significance of Black Rock Mill to its context at Seneca Creek has been noted in other histories of the area:

Black Rock is a unique survivor among the many mills built in the country, harnessing the water power of the creeks to grind wheat and corn into flour. Flour milling was one of the most important services needed in colonial and Nineteenth Century Maryland. Descriptions of the milling operations under Americus Briggs and his son-in-law show that in addition to the two huge millstones grinding grain into flour, there was an up-and-down saw to cut lumber. Although the grist mill was mostly used following harvests, the sawmill operated almost year round. Ironically, lumber sawed at Black Rock Mill was used to build the Liberty Mill, a steam operation in Germantown, which subsequently helped put Black Rock Mill out of business.

See continuation sheet

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

CONTINUATION SHEET

Black Rock Mill

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

A feasibility study commissioned by DNR and conducted by a Hyattsville architectural consulting firm, Vosbeck & Vosbeck in the mid-70s, suggested that full restoration of the mill to a working mill in its former appearance would be costly. ⁵ Further stabilization is desirable; the Montgomery County Public Works Department was responsible for summary stabilization (with steel girders) ⁶, but this shell requires additional immediate attention lest the integrity of the structure be further compromised.

As of November 1975, the mill was leased to the Montgomery County Department of Community and Economic Development. Black Rock Mill, even in its current state of disrepair, is the best preserved example of a grist/saw mill in the Seneca region. A comparable stone grist mill located on River Road disappeared in the 1960s, a victim of road widening. Clopper Mill's ruinous state is further advanced than Black Rock Mill, and is beyond reclamation as a reusable structure. The stone cutting mill included in the quarry complex, while stable structurally, is yet another ruin. So Black Rock Mill is important as the representative survivor and historically as a focus of economic activity in the area.

Dwyer, Michael: "Chronological Listing of Events Connected with Black Rock Mill", (appendix to MHT Survey Form M 24-6) p. 1.
2Ibid., p. 1.

³Montgomery County Courier, "Black Rock Mill: A Reminder of Times Forgotten", 2/12/73.

⁴Cohen, Cynthia, et al, <u>Black Rock Mill</u>, "Historic Association", Appendix to MHT Survey Form M 24-6.

⁵Maryland Park Service, <u>Interpretive Prospectus: Seneca Creek State</u>
<u>Park</u>, Anapolis, Oct. 17, 1977, p. 11.

⁶ Ibid;, op cit.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cobb, Davis: Mills on the Seneca and Their Tributaries, Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, 1968.

Cohen, Cynthia, et al: Black Rock Mill, "Historic Association" Appendix to MHT Survey Form M 24-6.

Dwyer, Michael: "Chronological Listing of Events Connected with Black Rock Mill", Appendix to MHT Survey Form M 24-6, p.1.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (see continuation sheet)

10	GEO	GRA	PHIC	AL	ĎΑ	TA
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ACREAGE	OF NOMINATED PROPERTY	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

FERTY WARRY TO DEED BOOKED

Front Street

1. 1 . 342. . 2

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

111 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Annapolis

Ellen Coxe, Historic Sites Surveyor ORGANIZATION DATE Maryland Historical Trust March 1979 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

Shaw House, 21 State Circle 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

الموالية الموالية أأراز والأمالية بالموالية الوازات الأمالية الموالية الأمارة الموالية المساعدات

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

CONTINUATION SHEET

Black Rock Mill

ITEM NUMBER 9

2

PAGE

Hiebert, Ray Eldon and MacMaster, Richard K.: A Grateful Remembrance:
The Story of Montgomery County, Maryland, Montgomery County Government,
Rockville, 1976.

Maryland Park Service, <u>Interpretive Prospectus</u>: <u>Seneca Creek State Park</u>, p. 11, Annapolis, October 17, 1977.

Montgomery County Courier, "Black Rock Mill: A reminder of times forgotten", 2/12/73.

Vosbeck & Vosbeck: Black Rock Mill - Restoration Feasibility Study, Hyattsville, 1975.

Kiplinger & Reber: Portrait in Time, Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, 1976.

1. Name of Landmark: Black Rock Mill

- 2. <u>Location</u>: On Black Rock Road at the intersection of Black Rock Road and Seneca Creek, approximately one-half mile north of Route 28.
- 3. <u>Present use</u>: The mill house is still standing and is part of the Seneca State Park. The state and county are planning to restore the water-powered mill, now closed to the public.
- 4. Owner: State of Maryland.
- 5. <u>Date or period built</u>: 1815 as shown in the inscription on the datestone in the east gable: "Black Rock Mill T.H. 1815."
- 6. Architectural description: A large, commanding rectangular field stone structure with wooden beams, gable roof, three floors and basement. The building measures 30' x 40'. It was powered by a single overshot water-wheel.
- 7. Builder: Unknown
- 8. Original owner: Thomas Hilleary. Ownership subsequently changed hands several times until the turn of the 20th century. It was operated into the 1920's by Americus Briggs and his sonin-law, C. Wallace Hughes.
- 9. Historic association: Black Rock is a unique survivor among the many mills built in the county, harnessing the water-power of the creeks to grind wheat and corn into flour. Flour milling was one of the most important services needed in colonial and 19th century Maryland. Descriptions of the milling operations under Americus Briggs and his son-in-law show that in addition to the two huge millstones grinding grain into flour there was an up-and-down saw to cut lumber. Although the gristmill was mostly used following harvests, the sawmill operated almost year around. Ironically, lumber sawed at Black Rock Mill was used to build the Liberty Mill, a steam operation in Germantown, which subsequently helped put Black Rock Mill out of business.
- 10. <u>Bibliography</u>: 1. <u>Mills on the Seneca and their tributaries</u>. Doris B. Cobb. Reprinted by the Montgomery County Historical Society. 1968.
 - 2. Black Rock Mill Restoration Feasibility Study. Vosbeck, Vosbeck, Kendrick and Redinger. undated.
- 11. Researchers: Chiranjit Chakraverty
 25 Nancy Place Apt. 1
 Gaithersburg, Md. 20760

Ann Schuchat 36 Quincy Street Chevy Chase, Md. 20015

Cynthia Cohen 6803 Florida Street Chevy Chase, Md. 20015

Shooting Affray .- The committal of a crime in a neighborhood by some one seems to embolden others in the attempt to do the same for a petty provocation-or parhaps none at all. What the origin of the fracas, we od of are going to relate, was, we are unable to say. esday The parties are all colored and lived on the We environ of this town. Margaret Warren that and her son Elward upon the one side and Nathaniel, nnother son, upon the other side have been at logger-heads for sometime over a piece of property which is now in litigation.

They had been living under the same roof. Lately Nat. concluded to move after many pitch-battles, which kept onr constables unsay commonly busy complying with the duries of Seul their office and the magesterial court in an and almost uninterrupted session. From words to n law-suit, from a law-suit to blows, thence blood-letting until they have narrowly missed the first step into the path leading to a murderer's doom. On Wednesday last as Nat was moving from the house where they had all been living a fisticuss took place between the contending parties. Nat. after receiving a cut in the face fired two shots at his brother, one taking effect in the head, passing through the skin without fracturing the hone. The parties were arrested by Deputy Sheriff Green, and given a hearlog by Justice Biays, who held the parties for an appearance at the next Term of Court.

Farmers' Convention.-The annual convention of farmers and others inferested in agriculture, will be held the Sandy Spring Lyceson, on Tuesday the I th' flistent, at 13 o'clock, P. M.

The committee appointed H. C. Hallowel, President; Chas. Abert, Col. G. W. Dorsey, Griffith Search, B D. Palmer, and Thomas J. Lea, Vice Presidents, and Allan Farquiar, Secretary.

In addition to reports from committees and abstracts from the minutes of the clubs during the past year, the following questions will be-

- 1. H. w many acres of woodland should be keps on a farm of 200 acres?
- 2. What is the best disposition to make of bay when the price in Washington is \$14 per
- 3. At what price per bushel does wheat crase to be a paying crop?
- 4. In a series of years, is the orchard a in ble part of the
- LE LES EST CONSTITUTE Account on the sales profitable?

T. C. GROOMES,



UNDERTAKER, MECHANICSVILLE,

Montgomery County, Muryland.

THE SUBSCRIBER takes this method o I informing the public that he has bought the entire stock of the Undertaking establishment formerly conducted by Mr. Wm. B. Miller, at Brookeville.

He will continue the business at MECHAN-IOSVII.LE, and will keep a full assortment of READY-MADE COFFINS, of latest style. Personal attention at funerals, and

satisfaction guaranteed. T. C. GROOMES. jan 4-y Olney P. O. Md.

DAVIDGE'S STREET, LOMBARD



OFFICE OF ORANGE JUDO PUBLISHERS

"American Agriculturist," ROITORIAL ROME, 245 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, Nov. 27th. 1877.

J. A. FIELD, SON & Co., ST. Louis, Mo .:

I have ground twice on your BIG much attention GIANT CORN MILL. The care were

TRUSTEES' SALE.

DY VIRTUE of a power contain in a deed of tenst from John H. H!) ry and Mary E. Hilleary, his wife, hearing inte the 23d day of July, in the year 1877 and re-corded among the Land Records of outgomery county, in Liber, E. B. P. No. 16, folios 456, &c., the undersigned, T stees in suid deed named, will offer at publ sale to the highest bidder, in frost of the Court House door, in the town of Rocaville, io said Mont-

On TUESDAY, 15th of January, 1878, at the hour of 12 o'clock, M., the blowing

All those Tracts, Parts of Tracts, Pieces or Parcels of Land, lying and heing in said Montgomery county, called part of ' prained Ankle," "Barren Hills" and "The dition to Barren Hills," designated by the Jumissioners appointed to mak partition the real estate of the late Thomas Hilleary as the 3rd and 4th parts of Lot No 8 in said avision, the 3rd part of Lot No 3 containing

ACRES OF LIND, more or less, and the 4th part of L No. 3,

31 3-4 ACRES OF LAND, more or less, and both wers toget constiinting what is generally known as the "Sen-

eca" farm of the late Dr. Franklin Waters.
This farm is situated in the pn is road leading from Varnestawn to the Black Rock Mills, about two miles from Darnes an and about three miles from Germantown lepot on the Metropolitan Bran & Ross and adpoins the lauds of Americas it. Nicholas Dawson, Nicholas D. ngast a

The lands are well out one out one third of the work at he is need with Oak, Chestnut Hi kery and Popul

The improvements consist in a wn-story LOG DWELLING HOUSE,

MEAT HOUSE and TOBACCO HOUSE.

TERMS OF SALE: Our third of the purchase money to be pald to rush on the day of sale, or the ratification the reof by The Court, and the balance in two equal payments in one and two years from the day of sale; suid deferred paysness to bear interest from the day of sale and to be god by the single bills of the surch a surety or sureties to soved by the Trustee; and on the sale the sale by the Court and the purchase money, (and bour,) and to be made by the Trust

A plat of the lands Convergncing at the hours, E ON.

F. L. MOORE'S ew Advertisement.

READ IT NOW!

NEW CROP Western Clover Seed,

PRICE LOWER than it has been for years. Mer Send for price list to

F. L. MOORE.

Corn Shellers, FROM \$7 TO \$20.

One Very Large Patent Lard Press.

from Bankras . S to at BALF-PRICE.

One No. 1 SCHUTTLER SPRING WAND N FOR \$75 A GREAT BARGAIN.

SAUSAGE MEAT CUTTERS AND STUFFERS, FROM \$1.00 TO \$10.00

The Celebrated Oliver Chilled IRON PLOWS,

THE BEST THREE-HORSE PLOW IN USE. The sale of them is spreading from farm to farm throughout the county. SEND FOR CIRCULAR.



FOR FALL & WIF

Gentlemen's Suits, From & rcoats, Henry A.

Chronological listing of events connected with Black Rock Mill compiled by Michael F. Dwyer, M-NCPPC Park Historian

- 1760 Tract of land called "Black Rock" on "Sinicar" Creek patented September 26, 1760 to John Briscoe. No existing improvements mentioned. (Patent Certificates, Md. Hall of Records).
- 1764 "Resurvey on Black Rock" formed to include 355 acres. Surveyed for John Briscoe on May 17, 1764.
- 1783 Tax assessment made throughout state of Maryland. No mill listed under "Black Rock" or "Resurvey on Black Rock".
- 1789 "The Sprained Ankle" patented to Henry Hilleary of Montgomery County on December 11, 1789. This was actually a resurvey made to correct errors in previous surveys. The "Resurvey on Black Rock" was found to contain 359 1/4 acres but 1/4 acre was lost to an adjacent tract. A newly found vacancy of 7 1/4 acres was discovered however, and "The Sprained Ankle" became a tract of 366 1/4 acres. Improvements listed were about 200 old fence rails valued at two shillings six pence.
- 1789-1811 Henry Hilleary died sometime during this period and apparently willed his property to relatives named West in Frederick County. I have not seen the probate papers yet but in April of 1811, a Thomas Hilleary of Frederick County starts to buy the interest of Henry Hilleary's estate from his relatives, members of the West family. These two families were well established settlers of Frederick County.
- 1812 Thomas Hilleary, still of Frederick County, proceeds to buy unnamed land in Montgomery County that was deeded to the Wests by Henry Hilleary.
- 1816 The County tax assessment for this year lists Thomas Hilliary (sic) as owner of "Black Rock" totalling 355 acres, but no mills are listed.
- 1815 The inscription on the date stone in the east gable of the mill reads "Black Rock Mill T.H. 1815". The tax assessment was probably made earlier than 1816 but not recorded until that year since no mills are listed. Presumably taxation would not begin until the mills commenced operation.
- 1816 Perhaps the work on the interior etc. was still underway since the Frederick Town Herald mentioned... 'Mr. Thomas Hilleary's mill now erecting on Seneca ' on June 1, 1816.
- 1821 This is the first definite reference I can find that lists Thomas Hilleary and his wife Sarah as living in Montgomery County.
- 1844 Franklin Waters and his wife Sarah (Hilleary) had become owners of the mill (willed to them by Thomas Hilleary). They sold the property in this year to Nicholas D. Warfield.
- 1850 Federal Census records list Nicholas D.Offutt, age 25, as living with James Higgins family in the Rockville District. He was listed as a painter by trade.

- 1861 One court accounts gives this year as the division of the estate of Thomas Hilleary to satisfy the debts of John Hanson Hilleary (apparently a son) of Frederick County. Also claims that Nicholas D. Offutt bought the mills in this year. Perhaps the Civil War interrupted the actual sale.
- 1864 Nicholas D. Offutt files a bill of complaint with the Equity Court of Montgomery (see enclosed) and finally forces a Trustee's Sale of the mills which apparently had become dilapidated and were operated by the Charles Mansfield. Offutt was still considered the primary owner of the mill by 1865 although the actual sale didn't take place until 1866.
- 1894 Lee Offutt, Executor of deceased Nicholas D. Offutt offered mill for sale. Property apparently stayed in the Offutt family for many years.
- 1951 Asher Hobson and wife sell mill to John Shattuck and wife.
- 1955 Shattuck and wife sell to Gladys Finegan.
- 1957 Finegans sell to Gerald Ray Haney and wife. (Present owners)

BLACK POCK MILL 2/12/78 CO. COURIER MOINT, CO. #24-6

An unidentified lass poses in front of Black Rock Mill as it appeared whi when this photo was taken in 1905.

Black Rock Mill: A reminder of times forgotten

By RICK SCHMITT

Nestled on the banks of the Great Seneca Creek, among the trees and sandstone of the Seneca State Park, rests the Black Rock Mill. It is a 160-year-old reminder that ground wheat and sawed lumber were once not as easily accessible as a trip to the local grocer or building supply company.

Built in 1815 by Thomas Hilleary, the 3½-story grist mill was the focal point for much of the activity of farmers and merchants in the Germantown. Darnestown and Dawsonville communities up until the turn of the century.

Inoperative since 1920, the mill, situated on Black Rock Road, was recently boarded up to guard against vandalism. It was also stabilized with steel girders by workers from the Montgomery County Public Works Department.

"I'm really a nut of mills and as far as I'm concerned, this is the oldest anding and be threas year grist mill in the county," said Mike Dwyer, a park historian with the

Maryland National-Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Information of the mill's history is difficult to obtain but Dwyer did discover a record of a proposed Trustee Sale in the "Frederick Post," dated Saturday, Oct. 13, 1866.

The advertisement described the mill as capable of sawing lumber and grinding grains utitlizing "unsurpassedwater capacity." labelling it as one of the best country mills in the county. The sale included 30-acres of surrounding land and a three-story stone building which Dwyer suspects was wiped out during one of the many floods in the Seneca creek.

"In those days, I used to lead a team of horses down to the mill and take grain down there to have it ground for our cattle." reminisced Slage Dorsey, an 86-year-old. Germantown resident, citing his first encounters with the mill as an 11-year-old boy.

Born in Jefferson, Dorsey moved with his parents at the age of four to a 158-acre farm near Burdette Road, where the family raised dairy cattle and grew corn, wheat, hay and potatoes.

Plans to restore the mill have been 'bounced around' the Montgomery County government, the MNCPP and the Maryland (Continued on Page Two)

king

County Office of Planning report most of the 11 in the Patuxent of the 12 in the Patuxent of an amendment to prohibiting ributary to any plant or sewer capacity.

scit also suggested thensible for issuing the mitments should Carventory of all healups, similar to Daneveloped SSCAIT

t the Plan should te commitment for vision with local develop a body of oiniques and land use can provide reatment of run-off ens," said the report. dso warned that the in recommending not phosphorous the river, may not ederal requirements harge of pollutants rigable waters be 1985. by

) Maryland law, the

1001

persons will be chosen is committee from the ed by the civic and in Olney.

that had he known that re going to be so slow asium would not be in r, he would have had pairs made so that hildren could have used nter.

builders and contractors

Basin Plan must be approved by each of the affected county's governments as a prerequisite to adoption. Failing that, a joint resolution from the Maryland General. Assembly would be sufficient to send the plan to the Covernor.

A final Basin Plan is currently being drafted and will be submitted to the county governments where action must be taken by Feb. 24. Federal law requires implementation of the standards by July of this year.

Following adoption, 'feasibility plans,' must be prepared by the localities and subsequently a local Comprehensive Water and Sewer

Plan which would set priorities for the construction of facilities in the basin.

The Patuxent River Basin, which serves seven Maryland counties, including Montgomery, Howard, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary's, is one 18 state watersheds designated by the Maryland Water Resources Administration.

The 110-mile Patuxent River, which originates just south of Mt. Airy at Parrs Ridge at the junction of Montgomery. Howard, Frederick and Carroll Counties and empties into the Chesapeake Bay at Solomons Island, is Maryland's largest intrastate river.

Black Rock Mill

Continued from Page One)
Forest and Park Service, Swyer
noted, but at a time when those
agencies are slicing their
respective budgets to the bone,
prospects for restoration appear
dimforthenear future.

commissioned by the state Forest Service, was conducted two years ago by Vosbeck and Vosbeck, a Hyattsville consulting firm.

A \$500.000 price tag was planed to a complete restoration, including full operation of the mill's grinding wheel, but Len Wilbur, Seneca State Park superintendent said that figure could easily reach 1 million

today.

Wilbur guessed that it would take from \$150,000 - \$200,000 to restore the mill as a museum, youth hostel or meeting room.

The mill was purchased by the Forest and Park Service two years ago, but Wilbur said that the agency is not going to initiate a project of "that magnitude" while still working on the restoration of Fort Frederick.

For now, the mill will sit idle but majestic on the bank of the Seneca Creek, a reminder of a time long

Stamp meet

The Carroll County Philatelic Association will meet in the Engine House (second floor) of the Mt. Alry Fire mpany, Main Street, Airy, Maryland on ursday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 i. An auction will be l. Visitors welcome.

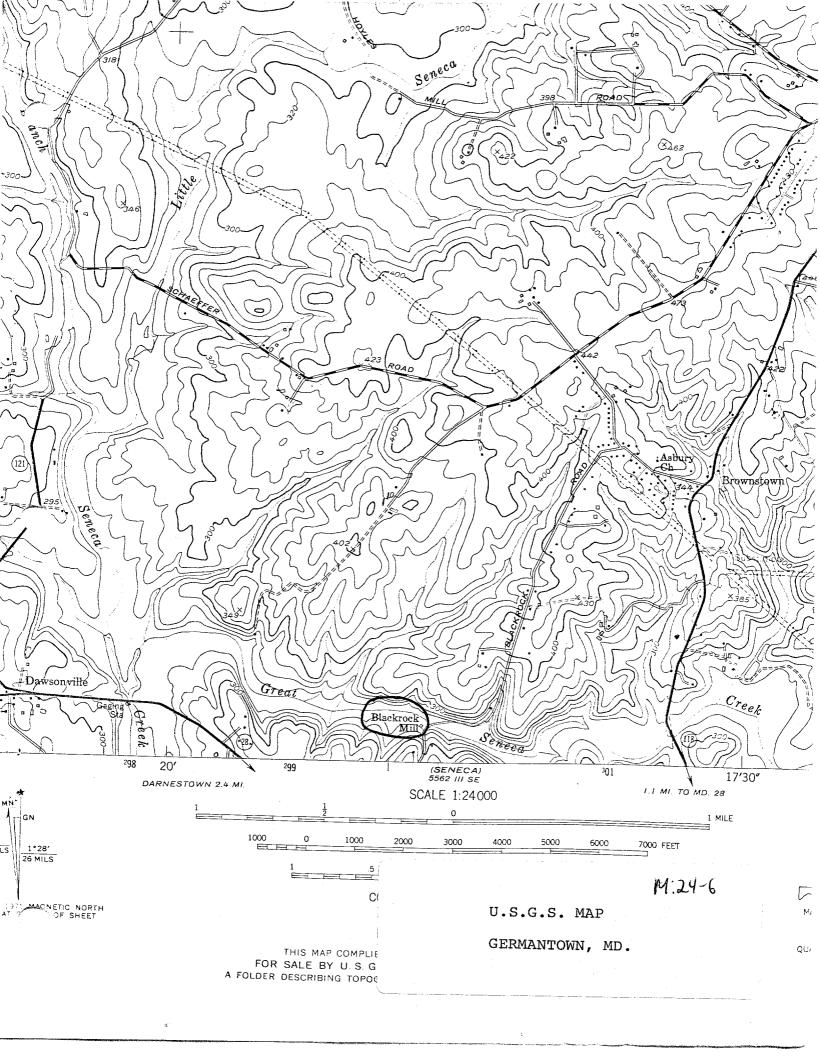


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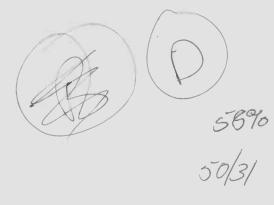




M 24-6; SEN/DNR 22 BLACK ROCK MILL SENECA STATE PARK 8/78 BMD SE ELEV.



M 24-6 SEN/DNR 22 BLACK ROCK MILL BLACK ROCK RD., SENECA CREEK S.P. 2/79 BMD SE ELEVATION





NAME BLACK ROCK MILL (DATESTONE)

LOCATION BLACK ROCK Rd. & GR. SENECA DAWSONVILLE, Md.

FACADE E

PHOTO TAKEN 11/6/72 M. DWYER



NAME BLACK POCK MILL

LOCATION BLACK ROCK RD. + QR. SEDECA CREEK FACADE NE

PHOTO TAKEN 5/22/74

m. DWYER



NAME BLACK ROCK MILL

LOCATION BLACK ROCK Rd. & GR. SENECA CREEK DAWSON VILLE, Md.

FACADE N.E.

PHOTO TAKEN \$ 16/72 M.DWYER



#24-60 NAME BLACK ROCK MILL - DATESTONE (1815) LOCATION BLACK ROCK Rd & BR SENECA CREEK DAWSONVILLE, Md.

PHOTO TAKEN 11/6/72 M. DWYER

FACADE E. GABLE END



Black RockMill North Side of Great Seneca Creek at Black Rock Road

SE Elevation Mont.Cty.Hist.Soc.